

EMERGENCY RESPONSE REPORT
FOR
NEWPARK DRILLING FLUIDS
337 N. SUNSET STRIP STREET
KENEDY, KARNES COUNTY, TEXAS

Prepared for

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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Submitted by

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1. INTRODUCTION

On 01 July 2018 at approximately 1715 hours, a fire was reported at Newpark Drilling Fluids facility located in Kenedy, Texas. The site is located at 337 North Sunset Street, Kenedy, Karnes County, Texas. The incident was not initially reported to the National Response Center. However, Newpark Drilling Fluids did report the incident to the National Response Center (NRC Report No. 1217044) (Attachment I) later in the day. In response, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 Emergency Management Branch (EMB) activated Weston Solutions, Inc. (WESTON®), the EPA Region 6 Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) contractor to conduct a Tier 1 incident response under direction of EPA On-scene Coordinator, Randy Guidry, and as outlined in Technical Direction Document (TDD) No. 0001/18-147 (Attachment J). EPA-EMB tasked START to assess the impact of the incident, to conduct air monitoring as needed, to document response activities, to provide technical support, and to update websites.

2. BACKGROUND

The Newpark Drilling Fluids facility is located at 337 North Sunset Strip Street, Kenedy, Karnes County, Texas. Newpark Drilling Fluids is an oilfield service company specializing in drilling fluid production. The geographic coordinates of the incident location are Latitude 28.823888° North and Longitude 97.860833° West as determined through computer-based mapping software (2018 Google Earth Pro). The facility is bordered by North Sunset Strip Street to the east, residential areas to the north and west, and hotel to the south. A Site Location and Site Area Map are included as Attachments A and B, respectively.

On 1 July 2018, at approximately 1645 hours employees discovered a fire near the front (east side of the building) of the facility after attempting to extinguish the flames the fire was reported to the fire department. Multiple fire departments from surrounding communities assisted the Kenedy Volunteer Fire Department in the response to the fire. The Karnes County Office of Emergency Management evacuated two apartment complexes and a trailer park located immediately to the north-northwest and northwest (downwind) of the facility due to fire and smoke coming from the facility. Fire fighters were actively fighting the fire until approximately 2130 hours when site conditions were no longer safe for fire fighters to actively fight the fire and transitioned to a defensive posture whereby allowing the fire to continue to burn.

3. SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

On 01 July 2018, EPA was alerted by media coverage and a request from the Karnes County Office of Emergency Management for assistance in responding to Newpark Drilling Fluids fire. Upon arrival, the EPA Team met with Incident Command (Karnes County Office of Emergency Management) to receive an update on response activities. The EPA team conducted community air monitoring in the residential areas to the north and northwest of the site. Community Air Monitoring results are provided in Table 1 (Attachment E). The air monitoring instrument used by the EPA Team was the MultiRae Pro with sensors for carbon monoxide (CO), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), oxygen (O₂), lower explosion limit (LEL), and hydrogen sulfide (H₂S). The EPA Team also observed liquid potential contaminants flowing off-site due to firefighting water run-off into a ditch along the east side of the facility. However, an earthen berm had been constructed by the potentially responsible party (PRP) contractor approximately 600 feet downstream of the southwest corner of the facility to prevent run-off from entering and impacting Escondido Creek. Escondido Creek is a tributary of the San Antonio River, the San Antonio River enters the Gulf of New Mexico through San Antonio Bay.

From 03 July through 05 July 2018, the EPA Team continued to provide support to Incident Command with community air monitoring within the residential areas adjacent to the facility and as requested. The EPA Team also documented site clean-up activities performed on-site and off-site. On 03 July 2018 the PRP Contractor utilized 2 track hoes to remove unstable walls associated with the fire damaged building. As this improved firefighting conditions the fire department resumed offensive firefighting activity. As a result of the firefighting activities and potential inclement weather four (4) underflow dams were installed within the drainage ditch located on the east side of the site to assist with run-off management and prevent off-site migration of potential contaminants into Escondido Creek. The Karnes County Office Emergency Management lifted the evacuation and allowed residents back into their homes on 07 July 2018.

On 11 July 2018, the EPA Team conducted a follow-up site visit to document clean-up activities. The PRP contractor excavated and transported approximately 468 cubic yards of impacted soil for off-site disposal to the US Ecology facility, in Robstown, Texas from the drainage ditch and on-site

locations. The PRP contractor recovered approximately 2,731 barrels of water/oily water for off-site transportation and disposal. Impacted liquids were also disposed at the US Ecology facility.

This Final Report was prepared as part of the requirements of TDD No. 0001/18-147 and serves as documentation of work completed.

4. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- A. Site Location Map
- B. Site Area Map
- C. Site Layout Map
- D. Surface Water Pathway Map
- E. Community Air Monitoring Results
- F. Site Logbook
- G. Digital Photographs
- H. Pollution Reports (POLREPS)
- I. National Response Center (NRC) No 1217044
- J. TDD No. 0001/18-147

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The EPA Task Monitor did not provide final approval of this report prior to the completion date of the work assignment. Therefore, Weston Solutions, Inc. has submitted this report absent the Task Monitor's approval.

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